

1817.

No. 10

For the study of Observations
with which
the subject on the Properties
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When

Nicotiana Glauca,

as a medicine;

and

its effects on Health.

as an article of luxury.

By P. B. Thwaitt.
of Virginia
—

Wm. B. Brown
1877

Preliminary Remarks.

In the study of medicine there is surely no one circumstance with which more propriety is associated than the selection of a fit subject for an inaugural dissertation.

In which side ever we look, difficulties arise to the view: then deliberating on this choice, we are met by the consideration that all diseases which are interesting to the practitioner, either from their universality, their extreme violence, and intractable character, as sporadic; their frequent recurrence as Endemics or Epidemics; their uniform fatality; or from an idea of import and attached to them from some peculiarity of feature, had already attracted the attention, and elicited the skill of the best distinguished men, in different countries; and had more or less individually made the themes of ingenious speculation by the immense number of young men who have, before us, been candidates for medical honours.

Upon the elaborate descriptions, and time-tested methods of cure already established, in many of these diseases, it would be but little short of presumption in a student of medicine, to make any animadversions; or, by an attempt to introduce innovation, promise any essential improvement.

These, I conceive to be the privileges reserved for age & experience.

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Preliminary Remarks.

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There are however sciences which are so completely enveloped in impenetrable obscurity as to have baffled the laborious researches of experienced and eminent men, and, in the investigation of which, youth and inexperience would probably be as profitably employed as in the pursuit of a student, or in attempting to dive into the nature of electricity or gravitation.

To improve and to correct practice, are not the student's province. These considerations alone would be sufficient to induce him to leave this widely extended field; and such as age is more better adapted to his abilities; and that of surgery, physiology, chemistry, natural medicine &c. would, for a time appear to offer an asylum. A little reflection shows these to be equally untenable for nearly the same reasons.

Chemistry from its imperfect state, & rapidly progressive improvement, of late, would, perhaps, suit our purpose best of any of these, were it not that a difficulty of access to a wellfurnished laboratory, generally proves an insuperable barrier to a majority of students.

After what has been said, it may be asked, why I have chosen to write on tobacco? My answer is, not that it is free from the objections enumerated, but because it appeared likely

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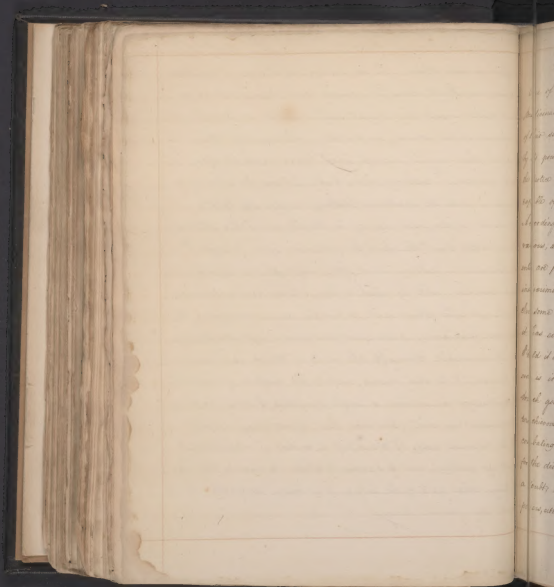
Intiminate Remarks.

as far as any other. It is not my expectation to influence in any considerable degree the opinions or practices of others; nor do I flatter myself that I shall heavily contribute much to the advancement of the science of medicine. The very idea of an improved thesis would suppress such hopes, for we all know in what estimation authority of this kind, (if I may be allowed to dignify it with the appellation, authority) is generally held.

The writer of the present day, of "no humble genius", has satirically denominated them, "the coils of the prohibitions of a preceptor."

If I succeed in restoring some of the confidence and respect in which a medicinal agent of which it has, I think, been unwarrantably deprived; - if what I have said be therefore an encouragement to some one possessed of more leisure and greater resources than myself, to investigate thoroughly the merits of tobacco as a remedy in disease; & by that means, add to the comforts of mankind by mitigating or removing a single complaint, I shall have fully accomplished my end. I been aware that regard for my talent.

Of the botanical history of tobacco, & of its methods of cultivation, I shall say nothing; nor do I purpose to direct its use in the arts, believing these parts of the subject to be so means legitimately connected with my present designs.



Nicotiana glauca.

One of the earliest methods of acquiring a knowledge of the medicinal properties of substances was by particular observation of their sensible qualities. Hence we may judge that this plant, by its powerful smell and taste, at a very remote period, attracted the notice of inquisitive man, and designated itself as an article capable of answering valuable indications in the cure of disease. Accordingly, we find it has long since been employed to fulfill various, and even contradictory ends. The results of such experiments are precisely what might be anticipated from the vague & indiscriminate use of so powerful an article.

In some cases, it has fully effected all it promised; and, in others, it has either done no good, or much harm.

I hold it as a maxim in medicine, with but few exceptions, that, whatever is incapable of doing much harm, is also incapable of doing much good. Because tobacco, thus used, has proven sometimes trustworthy, should we not wisely to discard it from our means of combating disease? I think we should rather bid it in reserve for emergencies for the diversified experiments with it; all tend to establish, beyond a doubt, the fact that it is a medicine possessed of energetic powers, either in substance, tincture, or infusion. That these powers, ill-directed,

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 I have managed to find some time to write to you.
 I have been thinking of you a great deal lately, and
 wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are
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The result of the trial was a verdict in favor of the
 plaintiff, and the jury found that the defendant was
 guilty of the crime charged. The court then sentenced
 the defendant to the state prison for a term of
 years and a day. The court also ordered that the
 costs of the trial be paid by the defendant. The
 case was then closed, and the court adjourned.



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[illegible]





The first of these is the fact that the
 government has been unable to secure
 the necessary funds to carry out its
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the most common cause of death in the case of drowning is asphyxia. The lungs are filled with water, and the air is expelled. The heart is also affected, and the blood is not properly circulated. The brain is also affected, and the mind is lost. The body is in a state of shock, and the organs are in a state of disorganization. The most common cause of death in the case of drowning is asphyxia. The lungs are filled with water, and the air is expelled. The heart is also affected, and the blood is not properly circulated. The brain is also affected, and the mind is lost. The body is in a state of shock, and the organs are in a state of disorganization. The most common cause of death in the case of drowning is asphyxia. The lungs are filled with water, and the air is expelled. The heart is also affected, and the blood is not properly circulated. The brain is also affected, and the mind is lost. The body is in a state of shock, and the organs are in a state of disorganization.



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cases. It is naturally at the point of creation, in the
the testimony of the cause, European nations to the
world, the descent of its things, which is left out the
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is not and must be perceptible to the

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easy to determine. I was not at all easy to determine.



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1. The volume of water in the atmosphere is sufficient
 to produce rain over a wide belt of land & sea.
 2. The clouds are not so dense as to prevent the sun
 from shining on the land & sea.

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The lowest is a small round structure, like one of the small
bells, sometimes called the "mushroom" or "mushroom"
and is a structure, not by itself, of the same kind as









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page 14
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infinitely, intensify the imagination, create a new association of ideas, and elevate the mind to a state of temporary felicity.

We now view every earthly object, in its faintest character, and regard with double force, the ties of friendship, and the bonds of social obligation, and it is at this crisis that we are peculiarly fitted, by an acquired or preternatural leguacity, for a mutual interchange of sentiment. This happy condition of things is shortly succeeded by one somewhat different, but not less exalted with imaginary bliss. It alludes to the secondary, or sedative effects of those stimuli: that calm serenity, that delightful tranquillity, always resulting from an abstraction of superabundant stimuli; during which the veil of oblivion is interposed between us and every recollection that would be productive of melancholy sensations.

The smoke of tobacco is said to assist reflection: it accompanied Sir Isaac Newton's patient thinking, and added to the wisdom of the politician." The late professor Rush has noticed this property. His words are, "Tobacco acts upon the understanding by its stimulus predominating over all other impressions, which, by distracting sensations, prevent the accumulation of that degree of excitement of the brain, that is favourable to a vigorous and connected train of thought. The well known Hobbes always sat in his study, enveloped in the smoke

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"of tin or towhee pipes of Tobacco. An eminent dissenting clergyman in England, composed a system of divinity, with streams of saliva, impregnated with tobacco issuing from his mouth; and Frederick 2. of Prussia, resorted to a profuse use of tobacco, (in snuff) to distract his mind above the pressure of the difficulties & dangers of his last seven years' war." But, continues the same author, "it acts in this way only upon persons accustomed to it." In persons unaccustomed to the use of tobacco, it exerts a very powerful narcotic influence, producing sickness at stomach, vomiting, vertigo, delirium, emaciation, and even death, if suddenly swallowed in, at first. But as it is my object here, to confine my remarks to its effects on the accustomed, I will conclude by some objections to the habits of smoking and chewing. These, as I have before said, do not appear, generally, to be prejudicial to health. They both however, if long pursued on, permanently contaminate the breath, by imparting to it an offensive smell, and they also are found to induce a dry and unpleasant state of the mouth and fauces by a waste of saliva. Smoking is calculated to injure the teeth, from its heat, and from its acrimonious qualities.

Upon the whole, then, it will appear that I am not disposed to reprehend the moderate use of this article so strongly as has hitherto